

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B!

1. A process for forming images comprising the steps of: conducting recording on a recording medium provided with an image-receiving layer; and

5 laminating a thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer to smooth the surface of said thermoplastic film by heating and pressurizing means and to bond the back side of said thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer.

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2. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the surface glossiness of said heating and pressurizing means is equal or greater than 10% at an incident angle of 20°.

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3. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said surface glossiness is equal or greater than 70% at an incident angle of 75°.

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4. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein either the glass transition point of said thermoplastic film is lower than the glass transition point of a binder resin in said image-receiving layer or the film-forming temperature of said thermoplastic film is lower than the film-forming temperature of a binder resin in said image-receiving layer.

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5. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film is a laminate of two or more thermoplastic polymer layers.

5 6. An apparatus for forming images comprising:
an ink-jet head for conducting recording on a recording medium; a laminate section for laminating a thermoplastic polymer onto a recording medium on which recording has been conducted; and

10 heating and pressurizing means for smoothing said thermoplastic film by heating and pressurizing and for bonding the back side of said thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer.

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